

Security Message for U.S. Citizens: Possible Demonstrations in Dakar October 19

October 19, 2012

The U.S. Embassy informs U.S. citizens in Senegal that demonstrations may occur on Friday, October 19 around the Reubeus prison, which is located in downtown Dakar near the Corniche. This is due to the relocation of a prisoner to that location earlier in the week. Police have mobilized and are pre-staging in areas where the demonstration is anticipated. It is unknown at this time if demonstrations may actually take place or when they may start.

Given the uncertainty of exactly when and how large demonstrations may be and the potential for violence, U.S. citizens are urged to exercise caution if traveling in the Dakar area for the rest of the day on Friday, October 19. Stay tuned to media reports, maintain situational awareness, consider alternate travel routes in case of blockage and avoid demonstrations should you come upon them.

You can stay in touch and get Embassy updates by checking the <u>U.S. Embassy Dakar</u> web site. You can also get global updates at the U.S. Department of State's, Bureau of Consular Affairs website where you can find the current Worldwide Caution, Travel Warning, Travel Alerts, and <u>Country Specific Information</u>. If you don't have internet access, you can get current information on safety and security by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States, or for callers from other countries, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

If you are going to live in or travel to Senegal or Guinea-Bissau, please take the time to tell us about your trip by enrolling in the <u>Smart Traveler Enrollment Program</u> (STEP). If you enroll, we can keep you up to date with important safety and security announcements. It will also help your friends and family get in touch with you in an emergency. You should remember to keep all of your information in STEP up to date. It is important during enrollment or updating of information to include your current phone number and current email address where you can be reached in case of an emergency.

The U.S. Embassy in Dakar is located on at Avenue Jean XXIII, Dakar; the mailing address is B.P. 49, Dakar, Senegal. If you have questions or concerns about safety or related issues, you are encouraged to contact the consular section at the Embassy by sending an email message to consulardakar@state.gov. The Embassy telephone number is +221 33 829-2100. For After Hours Emergency, please call Tel: 33-829-2209 and ask to speak to the duty officer.